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Communist China - Hong Kong - UK: The Chinese attack on the British Embassy in Peking has not yet been followed by direct action in Hong Kong.

Mass demonstrations began yesterday in Peking shortly after the expiration of the 48-hour "ultimatum." The last communication received by the Foreign Office in London reported that the embassy was being invaded by mobs. Radio contact was broken. The chancery was burned, but late reports say that the staff is safe.

On 20 August the Chinese demanded that the British lift a ban imposed on three pro-Communist newspapers in Hong Kong and release 53 Chinese newsmen who were under arrest or accept responsibility for "serious consequences." The British chargé refused to accept the note containing the threat and Hong Kong authorities continued with the trial of a number of pro-Communist reporters.

Peking's initial move against the British involved small risk, and action against the vulnerable embassy carried certainty of success. The British retaliated by imposing a travel ban on all Chinese officials in Great Britain. Thus far the internal situation in the colony remains generally quiet, but news of events in Peking may trigger renewed efforts by the local Communist apparatus to create disorder.

Chinese Communist propaganda still maintains that the local Communist leaders in Hong Kong must depend for the most part on their own resources in the struggle against the British. At a news conference yesterday in Hong Kong, Fei Yi-min, a leading pro-Communist spokesman, asserted that the colony's political future now lies in the hands of London and Peking. His comments indicate again that the local Communist rank and file is discouraged over the level of support they have been getting from Peking. However, Fei went on to threaten an increase in the terrorist campaign and announced that "the liberation of Hong Kong has begun." [REDACTED]

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Nigeria: The federal government's newly acquired MIG jet fighters are not likely to have an immediate impact on the civil war.

As many as ten Nigerian Air Force pilots may have received some sort of jet training. None are likely to be qualified for some time to fly the [redacted] MIG-17s and [redacted] MIG-15s just delivered. [redacted]

[redacted] The Soviet pilots are not expected by the federal government to fly combat missions against Biafra. [redacted]

Nigerian pilots are said to be making familiarization flights already in the L-29 Czech jet trainers delivered earlier this month. Some of these pilots could see action fairly soon. They would have, at least in the beginning, more of a psychological effect on soldiers and civilians than tactical importance in the civil war.

The federal government has, however, apparently acquired the services of a number of mercenary pilots. At least two are British who, [redacted] have been engaged to fly combat missions in the two jet Provosts the federal government purchased from the Sudan. The Provosts were last noted on 17 August in Fort Lamy, Chad, awaiting delivery of fuel, which was reportedly on the way. An additional six South Africans may have been recruited by Major John Peters, ex-Congo mercenary leader. [redacted]

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NOTE

NATO: The distaste of several NATO members for the present Greek regime is hampering military cooperation among the allies. One result is that a NATO exercise, Sunshine Express, scheduled to begin in Greece on 26 August, may be canceled. The Italians refuse to permit their forces to operate from Greece, and the British and Belgians have indicated they might have to reconsider their participation if the Italians drop out. [REDACTED]

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